Education of Dalit Muslims

377. DR. EJAZ ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of steps taken by his Ministry to implement Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for Dalit Muslims; and

(b) the number of schools established and the number of Dalit Muslim students enrolled under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for targeted interventions and focused provisioning for education of Muslim children in the age group of 6-14 years, which, *inter-alia*, includes support to Madarsas/Maktabs recognized by the State Madarsa Boards for transacting regular curriculum. This support includes appointment of teachers, school grant, teacher grant, free textbooks, teacher training. In addition support is also provided to set up Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) Centres for out-of-school children in Madarsas/ Maktabs not recognized by the State Madarsa Boards. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidayalayas (KGBV) prioritise admission of Muslim girls. Instruction in Urdu medium is provided in KGBVs set up in minority blocks.

(b) The number of primary schools opened under SSA in the minority concentrated districts in the last four years is 12,618 . The number of upper primary schools opened in the same period is 14,877.

The enrolment of Muslim children at primary level has increased from 1,23,81,057 in 2006-07 to 1,40,70,466 in 2007-08. Likewise, the enrolment of Muslim children at the upper primary level has increased from 35,71,186 in 2006-07 to 43,47,809 in 2007-08.

Education Guarantee Scheme in Himachal Pradesh

†378.SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 233 centres for Education Guarantee Scheme have been closed in Himachal Pradesh in 2008 because the children studying in these centres have been admitted in Government schools and now these children no longer require these Education Guarantee Scheme centres;

(b) whether according to Government the purpose of these centres has been served in Himachal Pradesh and other children in Himachal Pradesh are not in need of these centres;

(c) if so, the facts on the basis of which Government has reached at this conclusion; and

(d) if not, the other reasons for closing down these centres?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has closed these centres after ensuring that these are not required in the concerned areas and the children from these centres have been mainstreamed in regular schools.

Inspection of universities

379. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission(UGC) cannot conduct surprise inspection of the universities;

(b) if so, whether such a limitation doesn't hamper the UGC's mandate to maintain and monitor the academic standards of the institutions of higher education;

(c) whether such a limitation is applicable for both Central as well as State Universities; and

(d) whether Government is considering any step to make universities more accountable to the regulator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission is bound to communicate to any University whether Central or State, the date on which an inspection is to be made under section 13(2) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, and the University is entitled to be associated with the inspection in the manner prescribed in the Rules. Consistent with the autonomy of universities, need for an effective and overarching mechanism is one of the priorities of the Government.

Regulation for checking ragging

380. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to check ragging menace, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has broadened the definition of ragging apart from bringing several other new regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the heads of various Central Universities have been directed to handle the menace of ragging effectively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and